



poster ABSTRACT

Poster No. 19

TITLE

USING HOSPITAL DISCHARGE DATA FOR SURVEILLANCE

TRACK

Network Content

OBJECTIVES

1) Describe the utility of hospital discharge data for defining chronic disease prevalence. 2) Describe the limitations to look for in hospital discharge data. 3) Discuss strategies for using other data snapshots in conjunction with hospital discharge data to identify environmental health priorities.

SUMMARY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Public Health Indicators Project, identified chronic diseases of interest to surveillance tracking. Many of these diseases, however, are not the target of disease registries and are not required to be reported. Furthermore, clinic visit information about them is rarely easy to access on a large scale. In response to these challenges, the Environmental Epidemiology Program at the Tennessee Department of Health has developed a strategy for utilizing hospital discharge data to identify environmental health priorities. This presentation will discuss our approach, its limitations, and the joint use of other data sources to minimize its limitations. Components of the strategy include: 1) defining diseases of interest in terms of ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes; 2) counting patients versus visits; 3) selecting age groups; 4) problems with incomplete reporting of patient's race; 5) geographical units of analysis; 6) population projection methods; 7) crude versus age-specific versus age-adjusted rates; 8) hypothetical surrogates of disease severity and relative risk calculations

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